(a) whether spread of literacy is one of the important priorities of the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the average time made available for that purpose;

(c) whether through a programme named "Chauraha" an effort is being made by the National Literacy Mission to teach reading and writing to the illiterates by delivering five lessons on the Doordarshan every week; and

(d) if so, the details of the other programmes being telecast for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Although no specific time has been allotted for the telecast of literacy programmes, a large number of programmes on this theme in different formats are being telecast regularly by Doordarshan Kendras.

Policing of Indo-Bhutan Border

4026. SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made an assessment of the number of Bhutanese refugees in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and other districts on the Indo-Bhutan border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the arrangements made for the refugees; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen the policing of the Indo-Bhutan border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). About 3000 Bhutanese are reportedly staying in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts of West Bengal on the Indo-Bhutan border. They are staying mainly with their friends and sympathisers.

(d) Indo-Bhutan border is open and special measures like border policing as are taken in other borders, have not been taken.

Bilateral Aid for New Power Projects

4027. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are seeking bilateral aid for new power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the utilization of the bilateral aid already made available to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NTPC's Faridabad Gas Based Power Project has been posed to German Government for financing.

(c) Out of a total bilateral assistance of Rs. 19,357.00 Crores, tied up for power projects in the public sector, Rs. 6,164.89 Crores has been utilised by 31.10.1991.